Lafayette Historical Society **NEWS**

Enlightening Our Community

Lafayette, California | July/August 2015 | Vol. 43, No. 2

Have You Marked Your Calendar or Made a Reservation?

Sunday, August 16 at 1:30 p.m.
in the Lafayette Library & Learning Center's Community Hall

Lafayette Historical Society's
Speaker Series

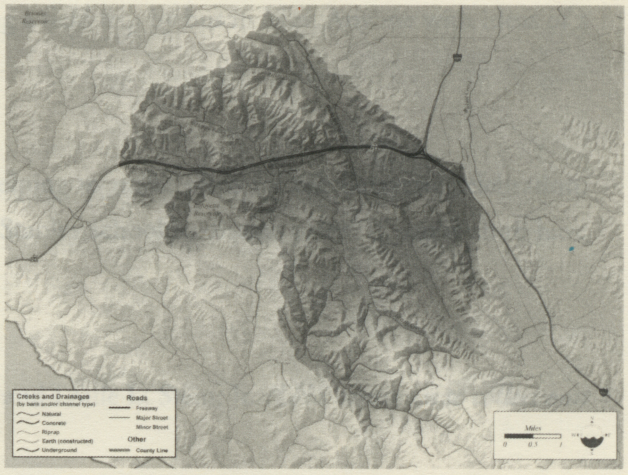
Lafayette Reservoir is abundent with plants and wildlife

Water:
The Lafayette Watershed, the Geography, Plants and Animals that Inhabit the Riparian Corridors

Speaker....Janet Thomas, Longtime Lafayette Resident & Creek Historian
Date.....Sunday, August 16, 2015 - ***Reservations Requested***
Time.....1:30 p.m. – **Program begins at 2:00 p.m.**
Place.....Lafayette Library & Learning Center – Community Hall
Donation Requested–**$10.00** LHS members; **$15.00** non-members requested
Kids under 14 Free with paying adult
For questions or reservations please call (925) 283-1848 or email Lafayette.History@comcast.net

Water: The Lafayette Watershed, the Geography, Plants and Animals that Inhabit the Riparian Corridors

LHS is pleased to continue our Speaker Series programs focusing on the importance of water resources in our community.



Janet Thomas has lived in Lafayette for 31 years and just a couple of blocks from Reliez Creek. She developed an environmental science course for the Acalanes Unified High School District and used that creek which borders the school and its surroundings as an outdoor classroom.

Ms. Thomas is now involved with the Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center, which is adjacent to Lafayette Creek. Her community involvement today makes use of her research and teaching experience in the Acalanes HS District as well as Mills College and the University of California at Berkeley.

Contact LHS at (925) 283-1848 or Lafayette.History@comcast.net for reservations or additional information

President's Message

Happy Summer to all of you! Given that the current drought is having an effect on all of our lives, the Historical Society has featured two programs this year on water in our state (John Coleman from EBMUD spoke on the local water supply, its sources and infrastructure) and our region (Stu Swiedler on "Water from the San Francisco Bay to the Sources of the Sacramento River). On August 16, Janet Thomas, former high school science teacher and community garden guru, will speak on our local watershed and riparian corridor. This should bring the water issue close to home and give attendees a better view of the part water has played in this area from the Saclan natives to the present.

Thanks to our newest group of volunteers:
Chuck Curran is doing research on Lafayette and World War II
John Kennett is organizing the History Room Library
Jay Nelson is archiving our collection of historic and new maps
David Van Etten is working with Nancy Flood and Sande Hubbs in organizing our archival file cabinets
Andrew Van Etten is transcribing oral histories
We are most appreciative of their time and talents.

The Art & Wine Festival will take place in downtown Lafayette on ***September 19-20***. Please look for the Historical Society.....we will be sharing a space with the Friends of the Lafayette Library and the Library Foundation so look for Old Betsy, our fire truck, and stop by to say hello.

Our next program will be on ***October 18***...we are working on a program about the history of winemaking in the Lamorinda area. More details to follow.

- Mary McCosker

Old Betsy

Looking Back on 40 Years at The Lafayette Historical Society - September 1975

When postage was only 10-cents and the Historical Society did not have a History Room, the only means of communication was a bulletin published monthly. Today postage is 49-cents, we have the History Room to visit and electronic means of communication. Times have changed drastically in 40 years, but as you'll see in the following newsletter from September 1975, many things have not.

The Lafayette Historical Society published Bulletin Vol. V No. 1
Chris Schreiber president of LHS - Martha Gridley editor.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership chairman, Betsy Willcuts reports 52 new members and 148 renewals for a total of 200 members. *(Note: LHS currently has just about the same number of members!)* Latest new members are: The Donald Dawsons, John Parkanys, Jack Pedders, Louis Koenigs, H. K. Bartons, Lloyde Kindalls, Robert Mathias', Thomas Henrys, Evan Sawderys, Jack Baileys, Roy Hedtkes, Dwight Swobes, Lloyd Peras, Ernest Andersons, Theodore w. Craigs, Norman L. Hawkins, Jr., Robert Hobsons and Steve Duncan. Welcome to all of you. (Do you recognize any names?)

PROGRAMS

The Orinda Historical Society will host the first meeting of the year on Sept. 23rd at 8 p.m. at the Orinda Library.

The Moraga Historical society will present the October meeting at the Moraga Library at 8 p.m. on October 9th. "Earthquakes and Faults" will be the subject. Moraga is holding a potluck dinner October 25th, details next month.

LHS presents Randy Millikin with his subject "A Bi-centennial Talk on Contra Costa County in 1776." This will be the November meeting held at 8 p.m. at Lafayette school auditorium on November 18th.

Our program chairman, Mary McIvor, is in the process of planning a field trip by bus in May. Anyone with ideas of a place of interest we could visit are asked to call Mary at 555-1212.

BICENTENNIAL

Our bicentennial committee chairman, Lou Repetto, has been helping to make plans for the Lafayette celebration. There will be a town meeting at 8 p.m. on Oct 11 in room 14 at Stanley school to discuss plans. If you wish to have a voice in these plans, attend this meeting.

ORAL HISTORY

Oral histories have been taken from Nat Martin, Clarence Brown and Louie L. Stein, Jr. *(LHS continues to collect oral histories from long time residents.)*

PICTURES, LANDMARKS AND ARTIFACTS

Joan Merryman has been busy unearthing old pictures to reproduce for our file at the Lafayette library. LHS thanks

Continued on page 5

LHS is Going Social!

We're having a lot of fun at the Historical Society posting pictures to our website www.lafayette.history.org; to our Facebook Page; and to the "You Know You're From Lafayette Ca. When" page on Facebook.

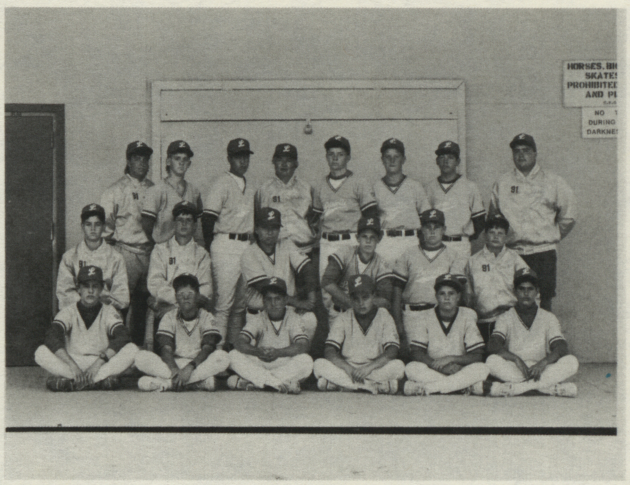
We have photos from the "Sun" that we've spent many hours looking through and archiving. Most of these photos may only have a date and no other identifying information. With the help of local folks who follow the sites above, the people in the photos have been identified and even the period of time or event!

Here's a great example:

We had many many comments about this photo on the "You Know . . ." site and ***Melissa Warnke Deichler*** was particularly helpful since her mother is one of the ladies. Left to right they are; Margaret Warnke, Cindy Hyde Finney, Dorothy McFadden, Nancy Whelan and Jewlee Valentine. The best guess about why they were all together was that it was a Tupperware Party!

If you haven't visited the pages mentioned above, you'll enjoy the posts and camaraderie that follows them. We hope you'll "like" our Facebook Page - https://www.facebook.com/LafayetteHistoricalSociety and even join the Historical Society to support our efforts keeping history alive in Lafayette. We've made it easy. You can go to our website, click the "I would like to become a member" link and even pay on PayPal - http://lafayettehistory.org/contact-us/membership/

And while we speak about Social Media, here's something you might be able to help with. This is a photo from our archives that we have not yet posted on our Facebook page. Can you help us identify this baseball team and players? Maybe you're one of these handsome young men!



Like many volunteer organizations, we're always looking for folks who would like to come in and spend a couple of hours a week in the History Room helping us with the on-going projects. Give us a call or drop by – we'd be happy to show you around and let you know how you can help. The History Room is open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Looking Back on 40 Years at The Lafayette Historical Society - September 1975

Continued from page 3

her for her efforts and she is grateful for the cooperation of the following people: Ken Brown, Alice McNeil Russi, Louis L. Stein, Jr., Eleanor Starks Meyers, Nancy Flood, Genevieve Gallagher, Leela Stevens-Craig, MD, Moraga Historical Society, Clarence Brown, Sybil Wilkinson, Carroll Nelson of Carroll's Upholstery, John Mustard, Jane Putnam of Lafayette Sun, Nat Martin and Brian McRae of East Bay Water.

Bill Wakeman whose family moved to Oakland Avenue in 1919 has given 24 Indian arrowheads to the LHS permanent collection. *(The arrows are on display in the History Room today.)*

2014-2015 Board of Directors

President:.....Mary McCosker
Vice President:.....Marechal Duncan
Treasurer:.....Judie Peterson
Recording Secretary:.....Nancy Flood
Ruth Bailey Michael Troutman
John Otto George Wasson
Laura Torkelson
Contact Us:....History Room - 283-1848
- or - lafayette.history@comcast.net

Eleanor Starks Meyers and LeRoy Starks, whose family has been in this area since the 1880's, have given the historical society valuable information about the early day activities of our town. Their mother, May Daley Starks, grew up in the house by the creek on Moraga Blvd. still referred to as the "Daley house". Once part of a large farm, it is surrounded now by trees and neighboring homes. *(The red house still stands on Moraga Blvd.)* Photographs of the family market on Moraga Rd. as well as other scenes of Lafayette and its residents in the 1920's and 30's have been loaned to the LHS. These photos are now being processed and may soon be seen in the historical file cabinet in the Lafayette Library. *(These photos and more are now available in the History Room as well as archived digital images.)*

We hope you'll recognize some names and places. We owe a great deal of gratitude to these pioneers of the Lafayette Historical Society for their dedication to Lafayette history. We hope that you'll consider joining LHS and supporting our continued efforts.

Lafayette Historical Society
P.O. Box 133
Lafayette, CA 94549
www.LafayetteHistory.org

Return Service Requested

Lafayette Historical Society Membership Application

(Please photocopy form for additional names)

Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City-Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Membership Categories and Annual Dues

(Please check one)

- ❑ Student Membership $10.00
- ❑ Individual Membership $25.00
- ❑ Family Membership $50.00
- ❑ Sponsor Membership $500.00

Please indicate areas of special interest

- ❑ Publicity
- ❑ Research-Genealogy
- ❑ Telephoning
- ❑ Displays
- ❑ Oral Histories
- ❑ History Room
- ❑ Data Base Entry of Photos
- ❑ Photo Collection
- ❑ News Clippings
- ❑ Fire Engine
- ❑ Walking Tours-Outreach
- ❑ Other_____

Please mail this application to:

Lafayette Historical Society
P.O. Box 133
Lafayette, CA 94549